



**HEALING & HOPE  
IN THE WILDERNESS:  
A MIDWEEK SERIES FOR LENT**

# **HEALING & HOPE IN THE WILDERNESS: A MIDWEEK SERIES FOR LENT**

20 centuries ago Jesus came into the wilderness of life to save God's people and restore God's creation. 20 centuries later that wilderness still exists and Jesus' work still continues. Jesus is present in us as we become more fully God's people and through us as we join Him caring for others and restoring God's creation.

**MIDWEEK WORSHIP** will be held in the parking lot at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM on the following Wednesdays: February 24, March 3, 10, 17 and 24. Meals are available before the services to eat in your cars. Please sign up and pre-pay at [www.LCRmarietta.org](http://www.LCRmarietta.org)

**MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP** will be held in the parking lot on Thursday, April 1, at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Holy Communion will be distributed. Online Worship will be available on our YouTube Channel: [www.YouTube.LCRsermons](http://www.YouTube.LCRsermons) at Noon on April 1. A meal is available before the services to eat in your cars. Please sign up and pre-pay at [www.LCRmarietta.org](http://www.LCRmarietta.org)

**GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP** will be held in the parking lot on Friday, April 2, at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Online Worship will be available on our YouTube Channel: [www.YouTube.LCRsermons](http://www.YouTube.LCRsermons) at Noon on April 2.

**EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP** will be held in the parking lot on Sunday, April 4, at 8:00 AM, 9:45 AM and 11:00 AM. Holy Communion will be distributed. Online Worship will be available on our YouTube Channel: [www.YouTube.LCRsermons](http://www.YouTube.LCRsermons) at 11:00 AM on April 4.

**HOLY COMMUNION:** After you've joined in online Easter worship we encourage you to drive over to LCR to receive Holy Communion from one of our pastors. This will be available from 12:00 – 1:00 PM

## **GATHERING**

*A procession with crosses and a large, lighted candle will be carried to its place.*

## **LENTEN DIALOGUE**

Show us your mercy, O God,  
**and grant us your salvation.**

Give us the joy of your saving help again,  
**and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**

Give peace in all the world;  
**for only in you can we live in safety.**

Keep the nations under your care,  
**and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Let your way be known upon earth;  
**your saving health among all nations.**

Let not the needy be forgotten,  
**nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
**and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.**

Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come before you.**

## **HYMN**

*Music for hymns is attached*

**Week 1:** ELW # 532 "Gather Us In"

**Week 2:** "Break Through" –Tommy Walker

**Week 3:** "Only By Grace" –Gerrit Gustafson

**Week 4:** ELW # 807 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

**Week 5:** "As the Deer" -Martin Nystrom

## **PRAYER**

### **Week 1—Alms**

Generous God, you have filled our lives with everything we need,

And you invite us to be generous like you.

By your Spirit empower us for your generous mission of hope and healing,

And keep our eyes focused on the cross of our Lord Jesus.

For it is in his cross that we find our hope and healing.

**Amen.**

### **Week 2—Prayer**

God who is near, you are always ready to listen.

Like a loving father, your love abounds for your children called by your name.

By your Spirit lead us to call out to you in every time of need and every time of joy,

And keep our eyes focused on the cross of our Lord Jesus.

For it is in his cross that we find our hope and healing.

**Amen.**

### **Week 3—Forgiveness**

God most gracious, God most merciful,

For all we have done and all we have left undone, we ask your forgiveness.

By your Spirit empower us to forgive as you have forgiven us in Jesus,

And keep our eyes focused on his cross.

For it is in the cross of Christ that we find our hope and healing.

**Amen.**

## **Week 4—Fasting**

Almighty God, your commitment to us never wavers.

In your unfailing love draw us back to you.

By your Spirit empower us to set aside those things that distract us from you.

And keep our eyes focused on the cross of our Lord Jesus.

For it is in his cross that we find our hope and healing.

**Amen.**

## **Week 5—Commitment to Healing**

Committed God, as we behold the outstretched arms of our Lord,

We see his commitment to healing the world through his cross.

By your Spirit empower us to lives that are dedicated to joining your healing work.

And keep our eyes focused on the cross of our Lord Jesus.

For it is in his cross that we find our hope and healing.

**Amen.**

## **PSALM**

*The psalm may be chanted by the leader.*

### **Week 1—Psalm 51:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>2</sup>Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me | from my sin.

<sup>3</sup>For I know | my offenses,  
and my sin is ev- | er before me.

<sup>4</sup>Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

<sup>6</sup>Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom | deep within.

*Silence*

God of mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves, and still you love us. Wash us from all our sins, create in us clean hearts, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may proclaim your praise; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Week 2—Psalm 51:1, 7-9**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear | joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.

<sup>9</sup>Hide your face | from my sins,  
and blot out | all my wickedness.

*Silence*

God of mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves, and still you love us. Wash us from all our sins, create in us clean hearts, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may proclaim your praise; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Week 3—Psalm 51:1, 10-12**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean | heart, O God,  
and renew a right spir- | it within me.

<sup>11</sup>Cast me not away | from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

<sup>12</sup>Restore to me the joy of | your salvation  
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit.

#### *Silence*

God of mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves, and still you love us. Wash us from all our sins, create in us clean hearts, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may proclaim your praise; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Week 4—Psalm 51:1, 13-14**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>13</sup>Let me teach your ways | to offenders,  
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

<sup>14</sup>Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,  
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.

#### *Silence*

God of mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves, and still you love us. Wash us from all our sins, create in us clean hearts, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may proclaim your praise; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **Week 5 - - Psalm 51:1, 15-17**

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

<sup>15</sup>O Lord, o- | pen my lips,  
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

<sup>16</sup>For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.  
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.

<sup>17</sup>The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;  
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise.

### *Silence*

God of mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves, and still you love us. Wash us from all our sins, create in us clean hearts, and strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that we may proclaim your praise; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE**

*We look back upon Ash Wednesday,  
using a portion of the Gospel reading from that day.*

### **Week 1—Matthew 6:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup>"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, <sup>4</sup>so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.



## **Week 2—Matthew 6:5-6**

<sup>5</sup>"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>6</sup>But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

## **Week 3—Matthew 6:7-15**

<sup>7</sup>"When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard because of their many words. <sup>8</sup>Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him

<sup>9</sup>"Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

<sup>10</sup>Your kingdom come.

Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup>And do not bring us to the time of trial,  
but rescue us from the evil one.

<sup>14</sup>For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; <sup>15</sup>but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

## **Week 4—Matthew 6:16-18**

<sup>16</sup>"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. <sup>17</sup>But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, <sup>18</sup>so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

## **Week 5—Matthew 6:19-21**

<sup>19</sup>Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; <sup>20</sup>but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. <sup>21</sup>For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

## **REFLECTION**

*Begin reflection using the following questions.*

### **Week 1 - Alms**

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading?

When was a time that you received alms?

What is in your heart as you give alms?

### **Week 2 - Prayer**

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading?

The real power of prayer is \_\_\_\_\_

How could the Lord's Prayer be a gift to your prayer life this Lent?

### **Week 3 - Forgiveness**

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading?

Recall a time when someone forgave you.

How does God help you to forgive others?

### **Week 4 - Fasting**

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading?

What gets in the way of devoting your time and energy to God?

What was it like to go without something in your life so you could focus on God?

## **Week 5 – Commitment to Healing**

What word, image, or phrase stands out for you in this reading?

When was someone committed to bringing healing into your life?

What could it look like for you to commit to bringing healing in someone else's life?

## **HYMN**

*Music for hymns is attached*

**Week 1:** ELW # 793 “Be Thou My Vision”

**Week 2:** ELW # 787 “On Eagle’s Wings”

**Week 3:** ELW # 656 “Blest Be the Tie that Binds”

**Week 4:** “I Have a Hope” –Tommy Walker

**Week 5:** ELW # 612 “Healer of Our Every Ill”

## **PRAYERS**

*Respond to each petition:*

***Week 1. We look for hope.***

***Week 2. We wait for your healing.***

***Week 3. We live in hope.***

***Week 4. We look for your healing***

***Week 5. We live in your presence.***

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

***Response***

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord.

***Response***

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for  
the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

***Response***

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

***Response***

For the health of the creation, for abundant harvests that all may share, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

***Response***

For public servants, the government, and those who protect us; for those who work to bring peace, justice, healing, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

***Response***

For those who travel, for those who are sick and suffering, and for those who are in captivity, let us pray to the Lord.

***Response***

For deliverance in the time of affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

***Response***

For all servants of the church, for this assembly, and for all people who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

***Response***

Giving thanks for all who have gone before us and are at rest, rejoicing in the communion of all the saints, we commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to you, through Christ our Lord.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ and asleep we may rest in peace.

**Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

It is true, even as we look for healing and hope,  
**God is with us.**

Almighty God, the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
bless and preserve you this Lent.

**Amen.**

*A greeting of peace may be shared by all*

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